

Appl. No. 09/939,095
Amdt. dated December 7, 2004
Reply to Office action of September 8, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received the Office action dated September 8, 2004, in which the Examiner: 1) rejected claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite; 2) rejected claims 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bernardo et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,684,369); 3) rejected claim 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruck (U.S. Pat. No. 6,268,856) in view of Mighdoll (U.S. Pat. No. 6,662,218); 4) rejected claims 13 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernardo in view of Marcos (U.S. Pat. No. 6,262,729); and 5) rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernardo in view of Tomsen (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0013950). With this Response, Applicants amend claims 1-10, 13, and 17-20 and submit new claims 21-30. Based on the amendments and arguments contained herein, Applicants believe all claims to be in condition for allowance.

I. THE § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTION OF CLAIM 17

The Examiner rejected claim 17 for lacking antecedent basis for the limitations "the request template" and "the response template." These antecedent basis issues have been addressed by amendments to claim 17.

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS UNRELATED TO PATENTABILITY

Various non-narrowing amendments have been made to many of the claims for reasons unrelated to patentability. Many of the method claims previously used the language "step of." References to "steps" have been omitted to ensure that none of the limitations in the method claims are interpreted under the dictates of 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. Further, much of the language of the independent claims' preambles has been eliminated as not being necessary.

III. THE ART REJECTIONS

The Examiner rejected claim 1 as obvious over Bruck in view of Mighdoll. The Examiner focused attention on columns 7 and 8, which describe Figure 6. In Figure 6, a user is currently viewing a screen for web "site 1," but wishes to view a screen for web "site 2." Figure 6 shows several options for transitioning a user

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screen from the currently displayed screen for web site 1 to the requested screen for web site 2. While the screen for site 2 is being retrieved and downloaded, three alternatives are provided in Figure 6 for what the user's screen might look like. At 110, the screen simply includes a status bar rendered on top of the site 1 screen. At 113, a blank screen 114 is shown, while at 116, an advertisement screen is shown. Once the screen for site 2 is downloaded, the site 2 screen is shown to the user at 120.

Amended claim 1 requires "identifying a returned application screen, wherein the returned application screen is different from the requested application screen if the requested application screen cannot be provided based on at least one of said business rule objects." Bruck does not teach or suggest this limitation. Instead, Bruck teaches that, with regard to selecting other content from a web browser device, "during [the] transition phase when communication is being established and the content is being downloaded, intermediate content may be displayed to the user..." Col. 7, lines 51-57. This display of intermediate content in Bruck, instead of the display requested by the user, is unconditional and not controlled by "at least one of said business rule objects." That is, the requested website in Bruck is returned to the user (see Figure 6), whereas in claim 1, the requested screen is not necessarily returned to the user—the screen that is returned in claim 1, be it the requested screen or a different screen, depends on a business rules object. Mighdoll is similarly deficient. At least for this reason, claim 1 and all claims dependent from claim 1 are allowable over Bruck and Mighdoll. Various amendments have been made to some of the claims dependent on claim 1 to maintain consistency with the language of claim 1.

Independent claim 7 as amended requires "receiving a user screen response from a database and business rules object, wherein the user screen response comprises a different user screen than requested when the requested user screen cannot be provided based on said business rules object." Neither Bruck nor Mighdoll teaches or suggests this limitation. At least for this reason,

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claim 7 and all claims dependent from claim 7 are allowable over Bruck and Mighdoll.

Independent claim 10 as amended discloses "a presentation object that requests a user screen and data from a database and business rules object, wherein the database and business rules object comprises rules that determine if the requested user screen can be returned." Neither Bruck nor Mighdoll teaches or suggests this limitation. At least for this reason, claim 10 and all claims dependent from claim 10 are allowable over Bruck and Mighdoll.

The Examiner rejected claim 13 as obvious over Bernardo in view of Marcos. Bernardo discloses "a tool, system and method for creating Web sites" in which the tool "comprises a library of templates (e.g., text, fields, HTML code and formulas) that correspond to the available features and options." Col. 5, lines 29-30, and Col. 6, lines 34-37. This tool "has an application assembler module that combines the templates for the selected features/options with data input by the site creator to generate Web pages to thereby construct a complete Web site." Col. 6, lines 52-56.

As amended, claim 13 requires "a request index template to receive a screen request from a computer application and retrieve a request template from a request table to format a database query based on the screen request." Neither Bernardo nor Marcos teaches or suggests this limitation. At least for this reason, claims 13-16 are allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 17-18 as allegedly anticipated by Bernardo. Applicants amend claim 17 to require "retrieving a request template corresponding to the screen request using a request index template; preparing a database query based on the request template; [and] submitting the database query to a business rules object and database." Bernardo does not teach or even suggest this limitation. Thus, claims 17-20 are allowable over Bernardo.

IV. THE NEW CLAIMS 21-30

New method claim 21 requires "receiving the requested application screen if the business rule permits the requested application screen to be provided; and returning an alternate application screen if the rule does not permit the requested

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application screen to be provided." This combination of limitations is not disclosed in any art of record.

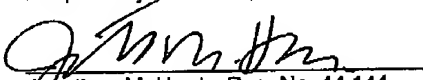
New system claim 25 requires "a business rule object" that "responds to the request for the application screen by providing the requested application screen if the business rule permits access to the application screen," or "by providing the substitute application screen if the business rule does not permit access to the application screen." This combination of limitations is not disclosed in any art of record.

V. CONCLUSION

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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